

leadership, Stephen and I led his colleagues conducted a months-long effort to expose mismanaged care of our veterans and a scheme at some VA facilities to falsely report wait times, covering up the fact that veterans were waiting months for delayed care. The investigation resulted in top leadership changes and disciplinary action against multiple VA administrators and an audit to weed out those who were lying about the treatment of our country's veterans. That commitment to finding and exposing the truth was an invaluable quality when Stephen was asked to combine his experience on the Hill with his law degree and serve at the U.S. Department of Justice.

When President Trump tapped Senator Sessions to be his Attorney General, Stephen was appointed and confirmed by the Senate as the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legislative Affairs. This achievement, which very few people can claim, was the culmination of over a decade of thoughtful service and leadership—built on a deep understanding of how Congress works. In this role, Stephen expertly managed the Department of Justice's relationship with Congress through often-contentious periods. He oversaw the Department's response to countless oversight investigations, congressional and confirmation hearings, and even several congressional subpoenas.

Every Senator relies on their staffs, and I had to build one from the ground up. This was a difficult task, but I knew with Stephen Boyd at the helm, he would ensure we got the right people in the right places. A devoted Washington Nationals Fan, Stephen describes a Senate office like a baseball team. It takes everyone collectively executing their individual jobs to win the game. And Stephen made sure each member of our staff had what they need to execute their role on our team. Deliberate, decisive, and always fair, that is how our staff describes Stephen. He kept the team calm, but motivated. He never notched today's win at the expense of tomorrow's victory. There was always a new solution to consider to a problem, and tough situations tended to look better in the next morning's light.

From the very first day, Stephen instilled a culture of integrity, inspiring our team to maintain a focus on doing what is right on behalf of the people of Alabama. The only "thanks" he worried about getting was a thank you from a constituent whose life we made a little better by helping them. For these first 2 years of my term—arguably the most formative years—Stephen was at the center of every decision and every action we have taken on behalf of the State of Alabama. And one singular question was his guiding light: "Is it good for the people of Alabama?"

This was especially true when it comes to our office's work on the Senate Armed Services Committee. Ste-

phen traveled around the State, the country, and the world to see our military in action. He focused on how we can use our position on the Armed Services Committee to support the military footprint in Alabama and our men and women in uniform. Stephen pushed us to take a listen-first approach—to ask our military leaders what they need and to actually listen to those requests. Thanks to his leadership, we secured authorization of funding for a number of projects important for the future of our national defense capabilities. Some of these include: new barracks at Ft. Rucker, missile defense projects, the construction of more ships in Mobile, a new physics lab at Redstone Arsenal, and a new commercial vehicle inspection area at Maxwell Air Force Base. And we even secured the No. 1 request from our No. 1 commander in the Indo-Pacific region that had gone ignored for years: a missile defense system for Guam.

Stephen was also a great support as Huntsville readies to become Space Command's home in the next few years. He led the staffs of the Alabama congressional delegation to have a united front in supporting this transition and ensured our office maintains near-constant communication with the Huntsville community and defense industry to ensure a smooth transition. Once again, Stephen's approach to work—ask first, work diligently behind the scenes, and do what is right for the people—was an effective way to get things done. These are just a few examples of how Stephen's leadership had external success.

But what people won't see are the daily moments of impact he had on our office. Stephen was a trusted and reliable adviser. You ask a question, and he will shoot you straight, even if you don't like the answer. And for me, his trustworthiness and transparency were invaluable these past 2 years. He worked to ensure I had all the information, from all sides of the argument, in order to make a final decision. And at the end of the day, Stephen always had the people of Alabama in mind.

Stephen didn't spend the last two decades of his career trying to gain acclaim. He quietly worked in the background to help improve the lives of Alabamians. And I have no doubt he will continue with that sense of service in his next endeavors.

Our office will greatly miss his steady hand and calm leadership. But we know public service is not just a burden of time and effort borne by the servant. I also want to thank Stephen's wife, Breckie, for her constant support.

So, Stephen, thank you for your service to our office, the State of Alabama, and to our country.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARK GORDON

• Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I rise today to recognize my good friend,

Mark Gordon, who will be retiring from his position as the president of the Missouri Broadcasters Association next year after almost a decade of distinguished service. Mark has been a broadcaster for over 40 years. He started his career as a copywriter and an announcer before moving on to being a newscaster and then switching to the advertising sales side of the business. Before agreeing to helm the MBA, Mark spent 10 years running television stations in Springfield, MS, my home town, which is where we first met each other.

Mark moved to Springfield to work for KY3 in 1997, shortly after I came to Congress. In a lot of ways, our professional careers have been intertwined ever since. He has been a tireless advocate for local Missouri communities and Missouri broadcast stations and has been a trusted voice on their behalf for as long as I have known him. Whether we were working together on spectrum issues, satellite television re-authorizations, or public service campaigns, Mark has always been a person I could rely on. And between seeing him back home in Missouri at one of his members' stations or on one of his numerous visits here to Washington, DC, I have always appreciated his advice and how he always worked on behalf of the communities we both serve.

I remember the meeting in my office almost 10 years ago where Mark and his predecessor, Don Hicks, let me know that Mark would be taking over the reins of the MBA. Don Hicks had served as the head of the Missouri Broadcasters for decades and left large shoes to fill. I can honestly say that Mark not only filled those shoes but also has left his own legacy on our home State and a high bar for whoever succeeds him.

Mark's proud legacy also lives on through his son Mike, who has made significant contributions in his own right to Springfield's broadcasting industry.

I wish Mark, his wife Lucy, their children Jaime and Mike, and their entire family nothing but success in this next chapter of his life. Forty years is a long time, and he has seen, and been part of, so much change in his industry. I am proud to have been able to call him my friend for the last 25 years, and I know that whatever he decides to do next he will continue to be a tremendous asset to his community and our State.●

RECOGNIZING THE HILLIARD ART MUSEUM

• Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate the Hilliard Art Museum on being awarded accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums. This accreditation offers an industry stamp of approval to the museum, recognizing the hard work of the Hilliard Art Museum team and the support of the Lafayette community.

The Hilliard Art Museum opened its doors in 2004. Since its beginning, Hilliard has offered immersive art education to all who visit. Students, families, and art enthusiasts come to the museum for informative collections and breathtaking galleries.

The Hilliard Art Museum was accredited by the American Alliance of Museums on November 18, 2022, after being vetted for multiple years. The accreditation process includes collections, organization, and educational assessments. With the American Alliance of Museums accreditation, Hilliard will have greater opportunities to grant funding and new opportunities to borrow art pieces from other museums and collections.

Congratulations to the Hilliard Art Museum team for this recognition of their dedication to serving the community through art education.●

TRIBUTE TO JUDITH ADAMS

● Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, today I wish to honor the retirement of Judith Adams from the Alabama State Port Authority after 28 years of impactful service. Judy has played an integral role in the growth and development of the Port of Mobile, which has been one of my greatest legislative priorities. Without Judy, the Port of Mobile would not be what it is today. I would be remiss to not formally thank her for all of her hard work.

In July of 1990, Judy was hired by John Dutton, then director of the State dock system of Alabama, to work on media relations and serve as the port's representative in legislative efforts. Four years later, Judy was named the official liaison between the Federal Government and the Alabama State Port Authority, overseeing the transfer of the Navy homeport to the port.

Following her success in that role, Judy was promoted to superintendent at Middle Bay and ran the Theodore Operations. She continued to prove herself a viable asset and climbed the ranks again in 2002 to become manager of media relations.

She was a key facilitator of multiple economic development projects, including landing APM Terminals in 2008, which has been a catalyst for skyrocketing activity at the port. She also oversaw teams that recruited Aker Solutions ASA, Berg Spiral Pipe Corporation, and the ThyssenKrupp projects to Mobile. In partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Judy led community outreach efforts that resulted in a successful Record of Decision for the port's harbor deepening and widening program.

Serving the State of Alabama with such depth of knowledge, Judy's final role as the senior vice president of internal and external affairs oversaw everything she had accomplished in her wide-ranging career with the Alabama State Port Authority. With Judy's significant involvement, the Port of Mobile has become the fastest growing

gateway for containerized cargo in the United States.

Since joining the port in 1990, Judy has worked with four U.S. Senators, four Members of Alabama's First Congressional District, eight Governors, four mayors, and countless county commission, city council, and State legislative officials.

Judy has earned recognitions from GulfShipper for her outstanding leadership and commitment to excellence in international trade and transportation and the U.S. Marine Corps for her help with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit's "Training in an Urban Environment Exercise (TRUEX) XXXVII" conducted at Middle Bay Port.

A graduate of Louisiana State University and previous chair of the American Association of Port Authorities Public Relations Committee, Judy currently serves on the board of directors and executive committee of the National Waterways Conference, Alabama Germany Partnership's board of directors, Partners for Environmental Progress, and the Coosa-Alabama River Improvement Association.

Judy Adams helped shape a more prosperous future for the Port of Mobile and the entire State of Alabama. The decisions she made and the projects she championed will benefit our State for years to come. She leaves behind a tenacious legacy that will not be forgotten, and I will miss working with her.

I am proud to take this time to recognize her service with the Alabama State Port Authority, which will continue to reap the fruits of her labor. Her achievements and dedication to transforming the Port of Mobile have not gone unnoticed. I join Judy Adams' friends, family, and colleagues in wishing her the best of luck as she transitions into a new chapter of her life.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:35 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1193) to amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act to direct the Director of the National Institutes of Health, in consultation with the Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, to establish a program under which the Director of the National Institutes of Health shall support or conduct research on valvular heart disease, and for other purposes.

At 3:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 198. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to incorporate data on maternal health outcomes into its broadband health maps.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5625. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Implementing the BEACH Act of 2000: 2022 Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5626. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The EPA's Capacity to Implement Certain Provisions of the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5627. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The EPA's Capacity to Implement Certain Provisions of the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5628. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.250 Rev 0, 'Dedication of Commercial-Grade Digital I&C Items for Use in Nuclear Power Plants'" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5629. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Guide (RG) 5.89 Rev 0, 'Fitness-for-Duty Programs for Commercial Power Reactor and Category I Special Nuclear Material Licenses'" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5630. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fitness for Duty Drug Testing Requirements" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5631. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for Emperor Penguin With Section 4(d) Rule" (RIN1018-BF59) received during adjournment of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5632. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reclassification of Palo de Rosa From Endangered to Threatened With a Section 4(d) Rule" (RIN1018-BE56) received during adjournment of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5633. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Division of Delisting and Foreign Species, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled